Ⅲ Appendix Table 7-1 Public interest in selected issues: 1983–2014

(Percent)

(Percent)													
Issue	1983 (n = 1,615)	1985 (n = 1,986)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2008 (n = 2,021)	2010 (n = 1,461)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)
New medical discoveries													
Very interested	NA	68	72	68	66	69	70	68	65	58	60	58	59
Moderately interested	NA	29	25	29	31	27	26	28	32	36	35	36	36
Not at all interested	NA	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	6	5	5	5
Don't know /refused to answer	NA	0	*	0	*	*	*	*	0	1	1	1	*
Local school issues													
Very interested	46	47	51	50	54	57	58	54	59	46	54	51	50
Moderately interested	36	39	33	34	35	31	30	34	31	40	36	37	38
Not at all interested	18	14	15	16	12	12	11	12	10	15	9	11	12
Don't know /refused to answer	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	1	*
Economic issues and business conditions													
Very interested	57	48	48	51	56	47	47	42	45	46	44	49	43

Issue	1983 (n = 1,615)	1985 (n = 1,986)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2008 (n = 2,021)	2010 (n = 1,461)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)
Moderately interested	33	41	42	40	36	42	42	45	45	43	45	40	44
Not at all interested	10	11	10	10	8	11	11	13	10	11	10	10	13
Don't know /refused to answer	1	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	1	1	*
Environmental pollution													
Very interested	NA	NA	NA	64	59	52	52	51	48	47	46	45	43
Moderately interested	NA	NA	NA	31	36	41	40	41	43	42	46	45	47
Not at all interested	NA	NA	NA	5	5	6	8	8	8	10	7	9	10
Don't know /refused to answer	NA	NA	NA	*	*	*	*	*	0	1	1	1	*
Use of new inventions and technologies													
Very interested	42	39	40	39	37	43	47	41	42	40	40	42	43
Moderately interested	45	49	49	49	53	46	43	48	47	46	48	46	45
Not at all interested	12	12	12	12	10	11	10	10	10	13	10	11	12
Don't know /refused to answer	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	1	1	*
New scientific discoveries													

Issue	1983 (n = 1,615)	1985 (n = 1,986)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2008 (n = 2,021)	2010 (n = 1,461)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)
Very interested	48	44	43	39	36	44	49	45	47	38	41	40	41
Moderately interested	41	43	46	49	49	45	42	43	45	47	50	45	46
Not at all interested	11	12	12	12	15	11	9	11	8	15	8	14	13
Don't know /refused to answer	*	*	0	0	*	*	*	1	*	*	1	1	*
Military and defense policy													
Very interested	43	47	47	55	47	37	35	42	38	38	37	37	35
Moderately interested	42	42	42	35	43	46	48	44	44	47	47	47	50
Not at all interested	15	11	11	9	10	17	18	14	17	15	15	15	15
Don't know /refused to answer	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	1	1	*
Space exploration													
Very interested	27	29	34	26	22	25	32	28	26	21	23	23	23
Moderately interested	45	46	44	48	50	49	45	46	47	45	49	44	45
Not at all interested	28	25	22	26	28	26	22	25	27	34	27	32	31
Don't know /refused to answer	*	0	1	0	*	*	1	1	*	*	1	1	*
Agricultural and farm issues													



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Issue	1983 (n = 1,615)	1985 (n = 1,986)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2008 (n = 2,021)	2010 (n = 1,461)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)
Very interested	NA	30	40	24	NA	21	24	22	29	22	25	22	24
Moderately interested	NA	48	45	48	NA	53	50	50	46	52	55	49	50
Not at all interested	NA	22	15	28	NA	26	26	28	25	26	20	28	26
Don't know /refused to answer	NA	*	0	0	NA	1	*	*	*	*	1	1	*
International and foreign policy issues													
Very interested	30	33	33	48	38	21	23	30	28	23	22	21	23
Moderately interested	47	51	50	39	47	53	50	47	49	48	48	47	48
Not at all interested	22	16	16	12	15	26	28	23	22	29	29	31	29
Don't know /refused to answer	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	2	1	1

^{* = &}lt; 0.5% responded. NA = not available; question not asked.

NOTES:

Responses to There are a lot of issues in the news, and it is hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a short list of issues, and for each one I would like you to tell me if you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding. For 1979 data, see Science and Engineering Indicators 2010, Appendix Table 7-4. For 1981 data, see Science and Engineering Indicators 2014, Appendix Table 7-1.

SOURCES:

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1983–2001); University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2008–14).

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